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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/917,729

**Applicant(s)**

TERADA, MASAHIRO

**Examiner**

Kyung Hye Shin

**Art Unit**

2443

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE:1-21-09.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3 - 7, 10 - 37, 40 - 42, 45 - 53, 57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3 - 7, 10 - 37, 40 - 42, 45 - 53, 57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/C)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1-21-2009 has been entered.
2. Claims **3 - 7, 10 - 37, 40 - 42, 45 - 53, 57** are pending. Claims **3 - 5, 7, 10 - 37, 40 - 42, 45 - 49, 51, 52** have been amended. Claims **1, 2, 8, 9, 38, 39, 43, 44, 54 - 56** are cancelled. Claim **57** is new. Independent claims are **3, 20, 32, 34, 36, 57**. This application was filed 7-31-2001.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims **3 - 5, 7, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20 - 37, 40, 41, 42, 45, 49, 51, 52, 57** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The added material, which is not supported by the original disclosure, is as follows:  
The terms, "product ID", "ID-menu", "ID-user", "ID-password", "ID-utility", and "ID-

*payment*", and *"frequencies"*, do not appear within the specification or original claims.

- a) For claims 3-5, 7, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20-37, 40, 41, 49, 51, 52, 57, the term, *"product ID"*, will be interpreted as an identifier for a particular product.
  - b) For claims 3, 45, 57, the term, *"ID-menu"*, will be interpreted as an identifier for a GUI menu.
  - c) For claims 25, 26, 29, 30, the term, *"ID-user"*, will be interpreted as an identifier for a particular user.
  - d) For claims 27, 31, the term, *"ID-password"*, will be interpreted as an identifier for a particular password.
  - e) For claim 28, the term, *"ID-utility"*, will be interpreted as an identifier for a particular utility.
  - f) For claim 35, the term, *"ID-payment"*, will be interpreted as an identifier for a particular payment.
  - g) For claim 42, the term, *"frequency"*, will be interpreted as the occurrence and collection of after-sales (i.e. history) information
- Appropriate correction required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims **3-7, 10-19, 40, 41, 45-48** and **32-33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims **3-7, 10-19, 40, 41, 45-48** define a server, comprising: an information receiving device, is to be construed as *software per se*, embodying functional descriptive material. Functional Descriptive material in combination with an appropriate computer readable medium would be capable to producing a useful, concrete and

tangible result when used in a computer system. Computer readable medium must be be physical structure, not a signal, which permits the functionality to be realized with the computer. (See MPEP 2106.01)

Claims **32-33** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the *four statutory categories* of invention. While the claims recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, a statutory “process” under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to a particular machine, or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing. See, page 10 of *In Re Bilski* 88 USPQ2d 1385. The instant claims are neither positively tied to a particular machine **that accomplishes the claimed method steps** nor transform underlying subject matter, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process. The *service method* including steps of *recording, associating, offering, receiving, reading* is broad enough that the claim could be completely performed mentally, verbally or without a machine nor is any transformation apparent. For example, the limitation of independent claim **32** discloses, *reading from the user recording device the user information associated with the received product ID to specify the registered user, and providing the selected service to the registered user*, which is *not tied to a particular machine nor transform to a different state* that accomplishes the method steps. (See *In re Bilski*)

### ***Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 103***

**The text of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.**

6. **Claims 3 - 7, 10 - 15, 20 - 32, 40, 41, 45 - 53, 57** are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over **Safai** (US Patent No. **6,715,003**) in view of **Jeyachandran et al.** (US Patent No. **6,947,156**).

**Regarding Claim 3**, Safai discloses a server, comprising:

a server managing a camera for a registered user. (Col 21, ll 20-24; col 21, ll 34-45: database to retrieve user personalization information that designates particular user camera; col 3, ll 23-26: network connected server; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration; col 21, ll 66 - col 22, ll 2; col 22, ll 40-45: menu capabilities utilized to process services, service menu, software elements of server cooperate with camera to display menu)

Safai does not explicitly disclose receiving product ID information, a database of menu interfaces, and sending a corresponding menu. However, Jeyachandran discloses:

an information receiving device that receives from a communication device a product

ID; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits to managing server: the received controller identification data, user identification data, and target model identification data to identify itself; col 54, ll 4-14: option to select a target model; model selection signal received by server and server transmits a UI (user interface, menu) to corresponds to model)

an ID-menu recording device that records a plurality of differing product IDs and menus, the menus corresponding respectively to the plurality of differing product IDs; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices are

stored in a server)

a menu reading device that reads from the ID-menu recording device the menu corresponding to the product information received by the information receiving device; a sending device that sends the menu read by the menu reading device through a network to the communication device. (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of the target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus); col 54, ll 4-14: option to select a target model from menu; model selection signal received by server; server transmits UI (user interface, menu) corresponding to model selection)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for receiving product ID information, database of menu interfaces, and sending a corresponding menu as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7: “... *The other objective of the present invention is to provide an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in the operational procedures. ...*”)

**Regarding Claims 4, 7, 12, 15,** Safai discloses the server as defined in claims 3, 5, 10, 13, further comprising:

a payment information recording device that records a method of payment and an association of the method of payment with at least one of the recorded product IDs; (Safai col 27, ll 30-36; col 27, ll 46-48; col 20, ll 26-30; col 16, ll 57-64: payment capabilities for provided services)

a payment method reading device that reads the method of payment from the payment information recording device according to the product ID received; (Safai col 27, ll 30-36; col 27, ll 46-48; col 20, ll 26-30; col 16, ll 57-64: payment capabilities for provided services) and

a charge receiving device that receives a charge for a service in accordance with the method of payment read by the payment method reading device. (Safai col 27, ll 30-36; col 27, ll 46-48; col 20, ll 26-30; col 16, ll 57-64: payment charged to financial institution)

**Regarding Claim 5**, Safai discloses the server according to claim 3, further comprising:

a user setting recording device that records user setting information of a registered user. (Safai col 21, ll 20-24; col 21, ll 34-45: database user personalization information; col 21, ll 66 - col 22, ll 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: service menu utilized; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration)

Safai does not explicitly disclose product ID and reading setting information for a product ID.

However, Jeyachandran discloses:

the user setting information corresponding to one of the recorded product IDs and a



menu. (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits to managing server: the received controller identification data, user identification data, and target model identification data to identify itself)

a setting reading device that reads from the user setting recording device the user setting information associated with the corresponding product ID received according to the information; wherein the communication device transmits the menu to the user. (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for product ID and reading setting information for a product ID as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claim 6**, Safai discloses the server as defined in claims 5, wherein the user setting information includes at least one of the following: a delivery address, a distribution destination of image or audio data, a financial source, a password, an address, a name, a gender, a birthday and an age. (Safai col 16, ll 57-60: user information (i.e. name, address, e-mail address))

**Regarding Claim 10**, Safai discloses the server according to claim 3,

a user information recording device that records user information on a registered user; (Safai col 21, ll 20-26; col 21, ll 34-45: database user personalization (i.e. utility) data used to provide offered services; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration)

Safai discloses wherein the information receiving device also received from the communication device, an image and the service information a register user. (Safai col 21, ll 20-26; col 21, ll 34-45: database accessed to retrieve user personalization information that designates particular user camera; col 7, ll 38-42; col 14, ll 59-62: image processing system, upload (i.e. save) image to a server for distribution)

Safai does not explicitly disclose product ID and reading information associated with product ID.

However, Jeyachandran discloses:

the product ID received from the communication device, (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits to managing server: received controller identification data, user identification data, and target model identification data to identify itself) a user information reading device that reads from the user information recording device the user information associated with the product ID received by the information receiving device to specify the user. (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification

data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for product ID and reading information associated with a product ID as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claims 11, 14,** Safai discloses the server as defined in claims 10, 13, wherein the user information includes at least one of the following: a delivery address, a distribution destination of image or audio data, a financial source, a password, an address, a name, a gender, a birthday and an age. (Safai col 16, ll 57-60: user information (i.e. name, address, e-mail address))

**Regarding Claim 13,** Safai discloses the server as defined in claim 10, wherein the service includes at least one of the following: an image or audio distributing service, an image printing service, a service for publicly opening an image on a network, and a service for saving an image in a server. (Safai col 7, ll 38-42; col 14, ll 59-62: image processing system, upload (i.e. save) image to a server for distribution)

**Regarding Claim 20,** Safai discloses a service method that provides communication with a communication apparatus that receives images of a camera, identifying a

camera, the service method, comprising:

receiving through the network a service selection from the service menu, or  
receiving through the network the service selection and an image among the  
images; (Safai col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: menu  
capabilities utilized (i.e. select image or service); col 11, ll 46-49; col 11, ll 53-56:  
select an image)

Safai discloses wherein receiving an image. (Safai col 7, ll 38-42; col 14, ll 59-62:  
image processing system, upload (i.e. save) image to a server for distribution)

Safai discloses wherein for displaying images on a displaying device of the  
communication apparatus. (Safai col 5, ll 15-26: display device; stored images  
viewed on display device) Safai does not explicitly disclose a product ID and  
providing a menu associated with a product ID. However, Jeyachandran discloses:  
receiving the product ID from the communication apparatus; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll  
39-50: target model transmits to managing server: received controller  
identification data, user identification data, and target model identification data to  
identify itself)

configuring a menu associated with the product ID; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50:  
target model transmits identification information to server; server reads UI (user  
interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target  
model data to controller (communication apparatus))  
providing through a network the menu associated with the product ID and enabled

for the particular camera identified by the product ID; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server transmits the UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for a product ID and providing a menu associated with a product ID as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claim 21**, Safai discloses the service method as defined in claim 20, wherein:

Safai discloses wherein a server that receives a connection from the communication apparatus, a registered user, and the image. (Safai col 7, ll 38-42; col 14, ll 59-62: image processing capabilities; upload image to server; col 3, ll 23-26: network communication connection)

Safai does not explicitly disclose receiving a product ID and associated information. However, Jeyachandran discloses:

receives from the communication apparatus the product ID; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits to managing server: received controller identification data, user identification data, and target model identification data to

identify itself)

a user recording device that records user information associated with the product ID;

(Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits to managing server: received controller identification data, user identification data, and target model identification data to identify itself; col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices are stored in a server)

the server reads from the user recording device the user information associated with the product ID received from the communication apparatus. (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for a product ID and associated information as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claim 22**, Safai discloses the service method as defined in claim 20, wherein:

the server connects to a service center and transmits the read user information to the service center. (Safai col 3, ll 23-26: network connected server; col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: menu capabilities utilized (i.e. response

transmitted to server))

Safai discloses wherein a server that transfers the image and service information from the communications apparatus through the network. (Safai col 11, ll 53-56: image processing capabilities; col 7, ll 38-42: upload image to server; col 3, ll 23-26: network connected server; col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45: menu capabilities utilized to process services, service menu)

Safai does not explicitly disclose receiving product ID information and user information associated with product ID.

However, Jeyachandran discloses:

receives the product ID; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits to managing server: received controller identification data, user identification data, and target model identification data to identify itself)  
a user recording device that records user information associated with the product ID and reads from the user recording device the user information associated with the product ID; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus); col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices are stored in a server)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for receiving product ID information and user information associated with product ID as

taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures.  
(Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claim 23**, Safai discloses the service method as defined in claims 20, wherein:

the server reads from the recording device the password associated with the received identification information verifies a password received from the user with the password read from the recording device, and then allows the service when the passwords are the same and prohibits the service when the passwords are different. (Safai col 11, ll 53-56: image processing capabilities; col 7, ll 38-42: upload image to server; col 3, ll 23-26: network connected server; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration; col 15, ll 37-38; col 21, ll 40-45; col 28, ll 38-43: password requirement)

Safai discloses wherein a server which communicates with the communication apparatus through the network has a password recording device that records a stored password associated with product ID; (Safai col 16, l 65 - col 17, l 1: unique username and password; col 3, ll 23-26: network connected server; col 28, ll 38-43: password requirement)

Safai does not explicitly disclose a recording device that records user information



associated with a product ID.

However, Jeyachandran discloses:

a recording device that records user information associated with product ID;

(Jeyachandran col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices are stored in a server; col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits the UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for a recording device that records user information associated with a product ID as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures.

(Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claim 24**, Safai discloses the service method as defined in claim 20, wherein:

the server selects from the the service menu associated with the product ID

information from the registered user and transmits the selected service menu to the communications apparatus. (Safai col 3, ll 23-26: network connected server; col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: menu capabilities utilized; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration)

Safai does not explicitly disclose a recording device that records user information associated with a product ID. However, Jeyachandran discloses:

a server which communicates with the communication apparatus through the network has a menu recording device that records the menu associated with the information and the product ID; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices are stored in a server; col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for a recording device that records information associated with a product ID as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures.  
(Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claims 25, 29**, Safai discloses the service method as defined in claims 24, 28, wherein:

the server reads the user information on subsequent reception of the associated identification information from the communications apparatus. (Safai col 3, ll 23-26: network connected server; col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll

38-42: menu capabilities utilized (i.e. response transmitted to server))

Safai discloses wherein a registered user and receive an image from a camera.

(Safai col 7, ll 38-42; col 14, ll 59-62: upload image to server; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration) Safai does not explicitly disclose a recording device that records user information associated with a product ID. However, Jeyachandran discloses: the server receives the product ID from the communications apparatus;

(Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server)

the server has an ID-user recording device that records the product ID information and user information associated with the product ID; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices are stored in a server; col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for a recording device that records user information associated with a product ID as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claims 26, 30**, Safai discloses the service method as defined in claims 24, 28, wherein:

the server reads the user information from the recording device on reception of the information from the service center and transmits the user information to the service center. (Safai col 3, ll 23-26: network connected server; col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: menu capabilities utilized (i.e. response transmitted to server))

However, Jeyachandran discloses:

the server has an ID-user recording device that records the product ID and user information and reads the user information from the ID-user recording device according to the product ID; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices stored in a server; col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for a recording device that records user information associated with a product ID as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claims 27, 31**, Safai discloses the service method as defined in claims 24, 28, wherein:

a communication device that receives information of a camera owned by a user from the user; (Safai col 5, ll 15-20; col 6, ll 41-48; col 1, ll 53-56: image data from camera displayed; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration; col 15, ll 37-38; col 21, ll 40-45; col 28, ll 38-43: password capabilities)

a device that allows services to the registered user and verifies the password received from the registered user with the password read from the recording device, then allows the services when the passwords are the same and prohibits the service when the passwords are different. (Safai col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: menu capabilities utilized; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration; col 15, ll 37-38; col 21, ll 40-45; col 28, ll 38-43: password requirement)

Safai discloses a verifying device and a database. (Safai col 21, ll 40-45; col 28, ll 38-43: password requirement; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration; col 21, ll 20-24; col 21, ll 34-45: database storage of user information)

Safai does not explicitly disclose reading from the recording device according to specific information by the communication device.

However, Jeyachandran discloses:

a recording device that records the information; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices stored in a server)

reads from the recording device according to the information by the communication device; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for reading from the recording device according to the information as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran to provide an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claim 28**, Safai discloses the service method as defined in claim 20, wherein:

a server which communicates with the communication apparatus through the network has recording device that records the identification and utility information related to services used by a registered user; (Safai col 3, ll 23-26; col 3, ll 39-43; col 15, ll 1-6; col 15, ll 44-46: network server system; col 21, ll 20-24; col 21, ll 34-45: database (i.e. records), user personalization information, menu capabilities; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration)

wherein the step of configuring the service menu comprises:

the server reading from the first ID-utility recording device the utility information associated with information received from the communications apparatus,

determining a listing order of the services in the service menu in accordance with the utility information, and a configured service menu in the listing order. (Safai col 5, ll 15-20; col 11, ll 53-56: display system; col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: menu of available services (i.e. image processing (upload/storage) entry in menu); col 16, ll 54-57: user registration)

Safai does not explicitly disclose a product ID and information associated with a product ID. However, Jeyachandran discloses product ID and user information associated with product ID. (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices stored in a server; col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for reading from the recording device according to the information by the communication device as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claim 32**, Safai discloses a service method comprising:

receiving from the registered user and service information indicating a service selected from the offered services, or receiving from the registered user, an image

and the service information from the user; (Safai col 21, ll 20-24; col 21, ll 34-45: database containing user personalization information, menu capabilities to provide services; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration; col 7, ll 38-42; col 14, ll 59-62: image processing system, upload (i.e. save) image to a server for distribution) offering to file registered user at least one service among a plurality of services including: an image distributing service, an audio distributing service, an image printing service, a service for publicly opening an image on a network, and a service for saving an image in a server, the services offered to the registered user being determined based on camera features associated with the product ID (Safai col 7, ll 38-42; col 14, ll 59-62: image processing system, upload (i.e. save) image to a server for distribution)

Safai disclose a particular camera. (Col 21, ll 20-24; col 21, ll 34-45: database to retrieve user personalization information that designates particular user camera)

Safai does not explicitly disclose associating the user information with a stored product ID that corresponds to a particular product ID. However, Jeyachandran discloses:

recording, in a user recording device, user information (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices stored in a server)

associating the user information recorded in the user recording device with a stored product ID (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits to the server that manages the target model, the received controller identification data, user



identification data, and target model identification data to identify itself;  
  
reading from the user recording device the user information associated with the received product ID to specify the user, and providing the selected service to the user. (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for associating the user information with a stored product ID that corresponds to a particular product as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claim 40**, Safai discloses the server as defined in claim 3, wherein reading the service menu according to a function of the camera. (Safai col 5, ll 15-20; col 6, ll 41-48; col 11, ll 53-56: display system; col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: menu of available services (i.e. image processing (upload/storage) entry in menu))

Safai does not explicitly disclose a product ID. However, Jeyachandran discloses a product ID. (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices stored in a server; col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to

server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for a product ID as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claim 41**, Safai discloses the server as defined in claim 3, wherein reading the service menu according to a registered user of the camera. (Safai col 5, ll 15-20; col 6, ll 41-48; col 11, ll 53-56: display system; col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: menu of available services (i.e. image processing (upload/storage) entry in menu); col 16, ll 54-57: user registration)

Safai does not explicitly disclose a product ID. However, Jeyachandran discloses a product ID. (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices stored in a server; col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for a product ID as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been

motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claim 45**, Safai discloses the server as defined in claim 3, wherein the menu recording device is configured to record user information of a registered user and associated the user information with the at least one service menu. (Safai col 21, ll 20-24; col 21, ll 34-45: database to retrieve user personalization information that designates particular user camera; col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: menu of available services (i.e. image processing (upload/storage) entry in menu; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration)

Safai does not explicitly disclose an ID-menu recording device and reading a menu according to user information. However, Jeyachandran discloses wherein the ID-menu recording device is configured record user information and the menu reading device is configured to read the menu according to the user information. (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices stored in a server; col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for an ID-menu recording device and reading a menu as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of

Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claims 46, 50, 53,** Safai discloses the server, service method as defined in claims 45, 49, 51, wherein the user setting data include at least one of a delivery address, a distribution destination of image or audio data, a financial source, a password, an address, a name, a gender, a birthday and an age of the registered user. (Safai col 16, ll 57-60: user information (i.e. name, address, e-mail address))

**Regarding Claims 47, 48,** Safai discloses the server as defined in claims 5, 10, wherein the first communication device is configured to receive, from the portable camera, user setting data associated with the registered user identified by the identification information. (Safai col 21, ll 20-24; col 21, ll 34-45: database user personalization information; col 4, ll 1-4: user information (i.e. name, address, e-mail address); col 16, ll 54-57: user registration)

**Regarding Claim 49,** Safai discloses the service method as defined in claim 20, further comprising:

recording user information of the registered user in the portable camera; (Safai col 21, ll 20-24; col 21, ll 34-45: database user personalization information; col 21, ll 66 - col 22, ll 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: service menu utilized)  
displaying the service menu on the displaying device of the communication

apparatus. (Safai col 3, ll 23-26: network connected server, image display device; col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: service menu utilized; col 4, ll 61-64: recording of images, recording device)

Safai discloses wherein a camera, a server, and a registered user. (Safai col 21, ll 20-24; col 21, ll 34-45: database to retrieve user personalization information that designates particular user camera; col 3, ll 23-26: network connected server; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration; col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45: menu capabilities utilized to process services, service menu, software elements of server cooperate with camera to display menu)

Safai does not explicitly disclose receiving information based on product ID and transmitting a menu. However, Jeyachandran discloses:

receiving the user information from the communication apparatus to a server through the network, (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits to the server that manages the target model, the received controller identification data, user identification data, and target model identification data to identify itself)

wherein the step of providing the service menu for display on the displaying device of the communication apparatus includes:

customizing the menu based on the product ID of the camera and based on the user information; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: server transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus);

transmitting the menu from the server to the communication apparatus through the network; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server reads and transmits UI (user interface, menu) of target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for receiving information based on product ID and transmitting a menu as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claim 51**, Safai discloses the service method as defined in claim 20, further comprising:

recording, in a server, user information of a registered user in association with the camera; (Safai col 21, ll 20-24; col 21, ll 34-45: database user personalization information, service menu utilized; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration)  
wherein providing the service menu for display on the displaying device of the communication apparatus includes:

displaying the service menu on the displaying device of the communication apparatus. (Safai col 3, ll 23-26: network connected server; col 6, 41-48: image display device; col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: service

menu utilized; col 4, ll 61-64: recording of images, recording device)

Safai does not explicitly disclose receiving information based on product ID and transmitting a menu. However, Jeyachandran discloses:

retrieving, in the server, the user information of the user based on the product ID received from the communication apparatus; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits to managing server: received controller identification data, user identification data, and target model identification data to identify itself) customizing, in the server, the menu based on the product ID and user information. (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server transmits the UI (user interface, menu) of the target model indicated by the user identification data and the target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

transmitting the menu from the server to the communication apparatus through the network; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits identification information to server; server transmits the UI (user interface, menu) of the target model indicated by the user identification data and the target model data to controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for receiving information based on product ID and transmitting a menu as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2,

II 5-7)

**Regarding Claim 52**, Safai discloses the service method as defined in claim 51, including a registered user of camera at a time of purchase of the camera by the user prior to recording the user information in the server. (Safai col 21, II 20-24; col 21, II 34-45: database to retrieve user personalization information that designates particular user camera; col 7, II 38-42; col 14, II 59-62: image processing system; col 15, II 54-57: user registration)

Safai does not explicitly disclose receiving at the server user information and product ID. However, Jeyachandran discloses wherein receiving at the server the user information of the user and the product ID. (Jeyachandran col 51, II 39-50: target model transmits to the server that manages the target model, the received controller identification data, user identification data, and target model identification data to identify itself)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for receiving at the server user information and product ID as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, II 5-7)



**Regarding Claim 57**, Safai discloses a service method. (Safai col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: menu capabilities utilized (i.e. select image or service); col 11, ll 46-49; col 11, ll 53-56: select an image)

Safai does not explicitly disclose receiving a product ID and transmitting a menu associated with the product ID. However, Jeyachandran discloses:

receiving from a communication device a product ID; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50:

target model transmits to managing server: received controller identification data, user identification data, and target model identification data to identify itself)

recording a plurality of differing product IDs and menus in an ID-menu recording

device, the menus corresponding respectively to the plurality of differing product

IDs; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 13-14: UIs (user interfaces, menus) of devices

stored in a server)

reading from the ID-menu recording device the menu corresponding to the received

product ID; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: the UI (user interface, menu) of the

target model is indicated by user identification data and target model data to

controller (communication apparatus)) and

sending the read menu through a network to the communication device.

(Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: server transmits UI (user interface, menu) of

target model indicated by user identification data and target model data to

controller (communication apparatus))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for receiving at the server user information and product ID as taught by Jeyachandran.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

7. **Claims 16 - 19, 33 - 37, 42** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Safai-Jeyachandran** and further in view of **Sloane** (US Patent No. **5,918,211**).

**Regarding Claims 16, 18, 34, 36**, Safai discloses a service center which offers a service on a camera owned by a user in response to a request from the user, the service center further comprising:

Safai discloses a camera. (Safai col 21, ll 20-24; col 21, ll 34-45: database to retrieve user personalization information that designates particular user camera; col 3, ll 23-26: network connected server; col 16, ll 54-57: user registration)

Safai does not explicitly disclose a communication device that receives product ID information. However, Jeyachandran discloses:

a communication device that receives product ID information; (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits to managing server: received controller identification data, user identification data, and target model identification data to identify itself)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for a communication device that receives product ID information as taught by

Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

Safai discloses a recording device that records the information and a reading device that reads service information from the recording device according to the information and wherein the communication device transmits service data to the user. (Safai col 7, ll 38-42; col 14, ll 59-62: image processing system; col 21, ll 66 - col 22, ll 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: menu capabilities)

Safai-Jeyachandran does not explicitly disclose usage of after sales information.

However Sloane discloses, wherein:

after-sales service information; (Sloane col 4, ll 28-32; col 7, ll 30-41: utilization of history (i.e. after sales) information in customer management)

a reading device that reads the after-sales service information; wherein the communication device transmits the read after-sales service information to the user. (Sloane col 4, ll 28-32; col 7, ll 30-41: utilization of history (i.e. after sales) information in customer management)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Safai-Jeyachandran for after sales information as taught by Sloane. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Sloane in order to motivate and alter purchasing decisions of customers. (Sloane

col 1, ll 11-15: " ... *More particularly, it relates to a method and apparatus for alerting consumers of sales, or other product promotions, to motivate or alter their purchasing decisions at the point-of-purchase, and further, a security system for the apparatus ...* ")

**Regarding Claims 17, 19**, Safai discloses the server as defined in claims 16, 18,, wherein the service information is updating information of a program for the camera. (Safai col 7, ll 38-42; col 14, ll 59-62: image processing system; col 21, l 66 - col 22, l 2; col 22, ll 40-45; col 7, ll 38-42: menu capabilities) Safai does not explicitly disclose the usage of after-sales information. However, Sloane discloses wherein the after-sales information is updating information for the camera. (Sloane col 4, ll 28-32; col 7, ll 30-41: utilization of history (i.e. after sales) information in customer management)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Safai for after sales information as taught by Sloane. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Sloane in order to motivate and alter purchasing decisions of customers (Sloane col 1, ll 11-15).

**Regarding Claims 33, 35, 37**, Safai discloses the service method as defined in claims 32, 34, 36, further comprising:

- a) wherein a payment method recording device that records the product information and an associated method of payment; (Safai col 27, ll 30-36; col 27, ll 46-48; col 20, ll 26-30; col 16, ll 57-64: payment capabilities for provided services)

said method further comprising:

- b) reading the method of payment from the payment method recording device in accordance with received product; (Safai col 27, ll 30-36; col 27, ll 46-48; col 20, ll 26-30; col 16, ll 57-64: payment capabilities for provided services) and
- c) providing a charge for the selected service in accordance with the method of payment. (Safai col 27, ll 30-36; col 27, ll 46-48; col 20, ll 26-30; col 16, ll 57-64: payment capabilities for provided services)

Safai does not explicitly disclose a product ID.

However, Jeyachandran discloses a product ID. (Jeyachandran col 51, ll 39-50: target model transmits to managing server: received controller identification data, user identification data, and target model identification data to identify itself)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Safai for a product ID as taught by Jeyachandran. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the teachings of Jeyachandran for providing an information processing apparatus that can flexibly cope with changes in operational procedures. (Jeyachandran col 2, ll 5-7)

**Regarding Claim 42**, Safai discloses the server as defined in claim 28, wherein the utility data includes frequencies in the use of the services. (Safai col 3, ll 23-26; col 3, ll 39-43; col 15, ll 1-6; col 15, ll 44-46: network server system) And, Sloane discloses wherein utility data includes frequencies in the use of the services. (Sloane col 4, ll 28-32; col 7, ll 30-41: utilization of history (i.e. after sales) information in customer

management)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Safai for after sales information as taught by Sloane. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Sloane in order to motivate and alter purchasing decisions of customers (Sloane col 1, ll 11-15).

### ***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot due to new grounds of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyung Hye Shin whose telephone number is (571)272-3920. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 6 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tonia L. Dollinger can be reached on (571) 272-4170. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kyung Hye Shin  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2443

March 29, 2009

/Kyung Hye Shin/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2443